

# City of Greensboro and Guilford County 2010-2014 Consolidated Plan: Plan for a Resilient Community

## Fact Sheet

### Strategic Principles

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The 2010-2014 Consolidated Plan is guided by seven Strategic Principles, each of which is supported by a series of Goals, Strategic Actions, and Intended Results. The Principles reflect the Livability Principles expressed by the Federal Interagency Partnership for Sustainable Communities, as well as the City of Greensboro's adopted *Connections 2025 Comprehensive Plan*. The Goals, Strategic Actions, and Intended Results, have been developed in response to the gaps, needs, and opportunities identified through our data analysis, public input process, stakeholder consultation, and a review of *Connections 2025* and other adopted plans.

- 1) Provide More Transportation Choices:** "Develop and maintain a safe, efficient, and environmentally sound transportation system that provides convenient choices for accessing destinations throughout Greensboro and the Triad, including a range of well integrated transit, pedestrian, and bicycle linkages."
- 2) Promote Equitable, Affordable Housing:** "Meet the needs of present and future Greensboro citizens for a choice of decent, affordable housing in stable, livable neighborhoods that offer security, quality of life, and the necessary array of services and facilities."
- 3) Enhance Economic Competitiveness:** "Promote a healthy, diversified economy with a strong tax base and opportunities for employment, entrepreneurship and for-profit economic development for all segments of the community, including under-served areas such as East Greensboro."
- 4) Support Existing Communities:** "Provide community facilities, services, and infrastructure in a cost-effective manner to meet citizens' needs, contribute to quality of life, and support desired land use patterns."
- 5) Coordinate and Leverage Federal Policies and Investment:** "Align with federal policies and funding to remove barriers to collaboration, leverage funding and increase the accountability and effectiveness of all levels of government to plan for future growth, including making smart energy choices such as locally generated renewable energy."
- 6) Value Communities and Neighborhoods:** "Meet the needs of present and future Greensboro citizens for a choice of decent, affordable housing in stable, livable neighborhoods that offer security, quality of life, and the necessary array of services and facilities."
- 7) Recognize The Environment as a Critical Element of Community Sustainability:** "Protect and restore Greensboro's irreplaceable scenic and natural resources: its system of parks and greenways, urban and woodland tree canopy, stream corridors and wetlands, and air and water quality. Consider use of best practices on managing urban stormwater, promoting water and wastewater conservation, and encouraging resource conservation."

### What the Consolidated Plan Does and How It Will Be Used

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- Creates a framework for more detailed Annual Plans required by HUD, and HCD's annual budget
- Coordinates with other City plans and policies, such as *Connections 2025*, CIP, LRTP, etc.
- Improves coordination among several City departments
- Lays the foundation for the upcoming update to the *Connections 2025 Comprehensive Plan*
- Sets benchmarks, against which to measure Greensboro's progress
- Provides guidance and support for our partner agencies that implement many parts of the ConPlan

- Puts Greensboro in a better position to benefit from a wide range of Federal funding opportunities
- Helps direct development of the City's Capital Improvements Program

## Federal Framework – Purpose of the Consolidated Plan

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The Consolidated Plan is a federally required planning document (submitted to the US Dept. of Housing & Urban Development) that:

- Includes policy recommendations,
- Establishes a schedule of projects and funding,
- Has a 5-year planning horizon,
- Covers federally funded housing and redevelopment projects, and
- Describes to HUD how we'll allocate federal funds to meet local needs.

The ConPlan actually covers an area formed by a consortium of four jurisdictions: the City of Burlington, the City of Greensboro, Alamance County, and the remainder of Guilford County, excluding High Point.

## Interagency Partnership – A Broader Approach

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The US Department of Housing and Urban Development, the US Department of Transportation, and the US Environmental Protection Agency have clearly articulated their intent to address the needs of urban areas in a comprehensive and sustainable manner. These agencies have signed an agreement known as the Interagency Partnership for Sustainable Communities (The Partnership) to: improve access to affordable housing; establish more transportation options; and lower transportation costs; while protecting the environment in communities nationwide. This Consolidated Plan takes a broader approach to issues of housing, affordability, homelessness, and community, by bringing transportation, land use, capital improvements, environmental and other considerations into its purview. The Vision for this Consolidated Plan is to establish and maintain programs and tools for Greensboro and Guilford County and their public and private partners based on this framework.

## Key Findings of Data Analysis

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- High-skill jobs have been replaced by lower skill jobs paying less, with fewer benefits, and fewer hours
- Household incomes have declined significantly – households in lowest income category have doubled
- One-third of households spend more than an affordable 30% of their income on housing
- Workers are now commuting further and spending more on transportation to find jobs
- Transportation, utility, food, and other costs have risen, aggravating the pressure on housing affordability
- The City's growth by annexation has exceeded infill growth by a margin of 5 to 1
- There's a shortage of affordable, safe, healthy housing, convenient to jobs, transportation, services, etc.

## Public Input & Stakeholder Consultation

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Public engagement and input occurred in several ways. Input came on a regular basis from the Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC). Composed of representatives of partner agencies and key stakeholder groups, the SAC met 11 times through the course of developing the ConPlan. Additional public engagement came through:

- Public Survey (December, 2009)
- Stakeholder Interviews (December 16 & 17, 2009)
- Public Meetings (January 13 & 14, 2010)
- Public Meetings (June 29, 2010)
- Public Hearing before the Community Resource Board (July 15, 2010)
- Public Hearing before the Greensboro City Council (August 2, 2010)

For more information, please contact Sue Schwartz: 336-373-2149 [sue.schwartz@greensboro-nc.gov](mailto:sue.schwartz@greensboro-nc.gov)  
or Jeff Sovich: 336-433-7264 [jeffrey.sovich@greensboro-nc.gov](mailto:jeffrey.sovich@greensboro-nc.gov)